

두 눈 뜨고

이탈
필요

김강현 「현대판타지 소설」

1



주라온 E&M

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레벨업

1

김장현 「현대파타지 소설」

주라온 E&M

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Level Up_Prologue

Level Up Prologue

It was dark. I couldn't see anything. Of course, it's because I have lost my sight. That's why I always kept my eyes closed.

Maybe I was in shock; my body felt like it was breaking, shattering. Pain. Oh, right, I'm dead.

But all of a sudden I heard something.

"It looks like he's breathing."

"It also looks like he's regaining his consciousness."

"Hey! Open your eyes!"

"Open my eyes? Are they talking to me? How would I open my eyes?" With those thoughts enveloping me, I opened my eyes.

"Woah!"

Through my eyes, I saw the world. I can see! My eyes can see! How is this possible? How am I seeing everything so clearly?

Slowly, I sat up and looked around at the people that were surrounding me.

I could tell just by glancing at the look they gave to me that they were not looking at me with emotions of worry or favorableness, rather, it was with pity, derision, and contempt.

"Are you okay?"

A man taking a step towards me asked. I looked at him and for some reason he looked very familiar, but at the same time I could not place where I knew him from.

It was almost as if he was buried somewhere deep inside my memories.

There was something strange on top of his head.

“Chang Soo Choi?”

The man’s face wrinkled up with utter disgust.

“What did you call me? Chang Soo Choi? Am I your friend? HA! You’ve lost your mind once and now you’ve become crazy.”

In my mind, I did nothing wrong. All I did was read the name that was floating clearly on top of his head.

That’s when I looked around my surroundings again and noticed something.

The six men and women that were surrounding me, all had their names floating above their heads. I looked at them calmly and tried to interpret the situation around me.

First, I could see their names on top of their heads.

Second, I used to be blind, but now I can see clearly.

Third, I was dead.

Fourth, I have no idea as to where I am. Heaven? or Hell?

“Let’s go guys. Just leave him there and let’s go. If we hang around people like that we’ll all die. The dungeon isn’t a child’s joke. Leave him be and let’s go.”

That’s when I realized where I was.

I was in a dungeon.

I died in a dungeon and now I’m alive again in a dungeon. Of course, it looked a whole lot different from the dungeon that I died in.

Chang Soo Choi seemed to be wondering about something and then he looked at me and asked, “Can you keep up with us?”

I didn’t reply to him. Why should I? I don’t know him, so how would I trust him and follow him? And by the looks of it, the people that were with him felt the same way about me. Beats me, I couldn’t care less because the feeling was mutual.

I looked at him without answering. He looked back and shook his head at me.

“It looks like you’re not too deep in here so if you be careful and turn around I

think you can make it back. Think you can do it?”

Looks like they’re going to leave me here. But make it back where? I didn’t answer his second question because I couldn’t decide as to what choice I would make.

But without consideration of my opinion, it seemed like Chang Soo and the others had already made their decision. They were slowly backing away.

When they all left, I took a moment to analyze the situation.

And then, something even more baffling happened.

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Level Up_Chapter 1 Part 1

Level Up

Chapter 1 Part 1

Hyunsuk stood up. His body felt heavy, but it also felt light. It was a weird and strange sensation.

First thing's first: understand the situation that he was in. All he knew was that he was in a dungeon. He did not know which dungeon he was in or who those people he encountered were.

Hyunsuk looked around his surroundings. Then he heard a noise coming from afar.

He concentrated on listening to the voices.

When he lost his eyesight, he was given the gift of his other senses peaking. Whether it was his auditory, tactile, or olfactory senses, they were incredibly sensitive.

Although he regained his sight in this dungeon, his other senses were still as sharp as a knife.

"Just a little more!"

"What if he left?"

"Do you really think a guy in that condition had the strength to leave already? Look at him! I'm positive that he'll be in the same spot. Don't worry!"

When Hyunsuk heard this, he was offended. "Are they talking about me like that?" he wondered. For some reason, he knew that they were speaking about him. And then faintly, he heard a very loud noise.

THUNK!

Hyunsuk's face froze.

"Those crazy bastards!" he thought.

There was no mistake. They were bringing towards him a thundering bad

energy.

It was a just a matter of time before they came into Hyunsuk's sight.

Six men and women were violently running towards him. And behind them was a giant dragonfly following the group of people. The dragonfly was surrounded by thunder and lightning.

"A thunder dragonfly!"

That was definitely a dragonfly covered by brain-like substances following those people. Determining by the size and the look of the insect, it was a mutation.

"Is this dungeon level a Bronze 1...?"

It probably is. Most likely. And all of a sudden, a bad memory of another thunder dragonfly from his past surfaced in Hyunsuk's mind.

Hyunsuk's eyes widened. The thunder dragonfly increased its speed and came flying faster towards him excreting slime-like substance and covering its body with it.

"I was the target?"

The memory! There was a reason why it was so repulsive. The exact same situation in his memory was happening to him now.

"Chang Soo Choi! How could I have forgotten his name? No matter how long it's been... How could I have been so stupid?" Hyunsuk's mind was filled with panic.

Suddenly, there was pain in his side. He lifted up his shirt and realized that the scar, previously there, was now gone. It was a scar that had formed because of a crazed thunder dragonfly from a long time ago. Or no...was it this same dragonfly?

Before he was able to clearly understand the situation going on around him, he knew what he had to do.

Hyunsuk took out the small knife that he was carrying on his waist. There was a small rush of energy that surged through the blade. It was very faint, but it was not the most advantageous weapon for him to have been using. Couldn't do

anything about it now though. It was all he had.

And with this, he would have no problem defeating the psycho dragonfly.

“On top of that, I must’ve imbibed the same thunderbolt power potion from my memory.” That would explain why Hyunsuk lost consciousness: because the potion is strong enough to bring enough shock to a person’s body to make him lose consciousness. The potion was also the reason why the thunder dragonfly was flying towards Hyunsuk psychotically.

The old Hyunsuk would have turned around and run away from this situation. That was what he had done in the past. But the Hyunsuk now had absolutely no reason to do so.

He braced himself and ran furiously towards the mutant dragonfly head on.

The six people that were running away from the thunder dragonfly, slowed down quickly now because the insect had flown past them. Their facial expressions quickly changed to a look of shock and fear when they saw Hyunsuk running towards the dragonfly. They did not expect this.

But there was nothing that was about to change.

“Everyone get ready. Let’s start hunting!”

“Okay.”

Each person took out his or her weapon.

When a thunder dragonfly sees a person that has consumed the thunderbolt flower potion, it goes crazy and tries to attack the person mercilessly. Because of its massive strength, it is hard for one to hunt a thunder dragonfly, but when it becomes a crazed insect, it becomes easier to hunt.

Of course, the person that has consumed the thunderbolt flower potion becomes endangered, but Chang Soo Choi used that to his advantage and has hunted this bug numerous times.

Hyunsuk and the thunder dragonfly came face to face in no time.

“Alright, let’s go!”

Chang Soo’s group charged at the dragonfly. They ran under the dragonfly,

sliced its abdomen open and when they got out from underneath the bug, they saw Hyunsuk running towards them.

BZZZZT!

There were floods of thunder roaring out of the dragonfly's body.

"What the... what's wrong with that?"

"The eyes turned red!"

"Everybody run!"

Nobody knew how it happened, but the thunder dragonfly had regained its senses. It was growing angrier by the second. It was continuously throwing out thunder and lightning bolts.

THUNK. THUNK. THUNK.

The lightning bolts were directed towards Chang Soo Choi.

"No!!"

"Everybody spread out!"

The group of six all ran in different directions. They were not expecting an outcome like this and therefore, they were not prepared to handle such a situation. All they could do was separate as a group and all run away in different directions.

Meanwhile, Hyunsuk ran in between a tree and a rock and hid stealthily.

'I'll pray that they survive. Just a little bit,' thought Hyunsuk.

While hiding, Hyunsuk observed the dragonfly attacking one of Chang Soo's group members viciously with its thunder bolts.

'They are probably realizing it too... There's no use running away from the dragonfly... They need to combine their powers and abilities and defeat the dragonfly as one or they have no hope in winning...' thought Hyunsuk.

The wrath of the dragonfly only grew. This was because Hyunsuk stabbed the hidden eggs of the dragonfly located in its tail. That small action was enough to put an end to the maniacal act of the dragonfly and made it come back to its senses. Except now, it was extremely angry.

“I guess I am a little sorry hehe,” Hyunsuk mumbled to himself.

Chang Soo Choi’s mind worked quickly. With a blink of an eye, the group reformed and they started a battle with the dragonfly.

“Impressive. Looks like it’ll last at least 30 minutes.”

Hyunsuk knew that they could not beat the dragonfly with that mentality. They would probably all fight to the death.

Hyunsuk was planning to go out and deliver the final blow when the fight was almost over and help to kill the thunder dragonfly.

He thought that it was the least they deserved: their life.

“Wait... I should probably figure out how this situation came to be first...” thought Hyunsuk.

He realized that his powers were almost completely depleted when he crashed into the thunder dragonfly. It was almost all drained. What had happened before he passed out for him to be so weak now?

After delivering the blow to the dragonfly, the reason why he still had some power left was not because he had an unlimited amount of strength, but rather because of his mind controlling skills. If it was somebody else that went through this encounter, they would not have been able to escape so easily.

Although the alternating thunder power dragonfly is a monster that only appears in a Bronze 1 level dungeon, it was hard for the fighters of the Silver level to fight this angry creature.

Looking at what Chang Soo Choi’s group was doing, it seemed that their strength was just enough to advance onto the Silver level of the dungeon. They didn’t have a chance.

“My strength is completely gone... You can tell that they are rookies... What exactly is this?”

There actually was a thought that popped into Hyunsuk’s mind, but it didn’t make any sense whatsoever.

“I don’t think just because I died and came back alive again that I’m in the past where this completely wild situation is playing out... Is it?”

He didn't want to believe it, but with the way of how things were coming about, all the puzzle pieces fit together.

The way he regained his sight, his strength and power being completely depleted, and meeting the psycho, crazy bastard Chang Soo Choi...

“Now that I think about it... It's been 20 years but Chang Soo looks very young...”

It was almost as if time was stopped or time has been turned around. What is going on?

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Level Up_Chapter 1 Part 2

Level Up

Chapter 1 Part 2

Hyunsuk stood up and walked over slowly to the area where Chang Soo's group was fighting. If Hyunsuk decides to slay the dragonfly at the last moment, they won't die.

THUNK! THUNK! THUNK!

The thunder dragonfly was putting in every ounce of its strength and pouring out the thunderbolts.

"No!"

"AGHHHHHHHHH!"

The group could not block the attack and were swiped away from the forces of the thunderbolt. Hyunsuk took this chance and bolted at the dragonfly.

The thunder dragonfly does not fly high. Therefore, the fight with it is bearable. Also, after its exceeding usage of strength, the dragonfly puts down its guard for a short time.

"Just like this."

Hyunsuk ran and slid underneath the dragonfly, slitting the connection between the abdomen and the head with his knife.

SQUISH!

CRACK!

A gush of its bodily fluids poured out as the split widened. Hyunsuk slid right out from under the dragonfly without a single drop of it landing on him.

The creature let out a piercing shriek as the fluids continued to flow out of its nearly dying body. That was the dragonfly's weakest point in its body and it surfaces only momentarily after continuously throwing out hard blows of thunder.

Hyunsuk once again charged towards the dragonfly. Even though he damaged the weak point of the thunder dragonfly, he could not kill it with just that.

He jumped onto the tail of the creature and ran across its back.

The dragonfly writhed and wriggled, but Hyunsuk kept his balance and continued to run across the huge creature's back. He reached the head of the insect.

Hyunsuk gripped the knife with both hands and with massive force, plunged the knife deep into the thunder dragonfly's head. He held on tightly to the knife and kept it stuck inside the forehead – its second weak point.

The dragonfly let out a deafening scream and fell straight to the ground. Hyunsuk jumped off the back of the insect and landed swiftly on the floor.

Nobody could call Hyunsuk a rookie player. In order to have attained the skills that Hyunsuk possessed, one would have had to be in this field for a few years. No, maybe even ten years.

Chang Soo Choi, who was half dead on the floor, mumbled, "Shit, I really got messed up this time." He tried using his opponent as bait but the tables had been turned on him instead and he was the one defeated. Chang Soo could not move because his body was paralyzed from the continuous blows of the thunder. All his comrades were all unconscious.

Hyunsuk walked towards Chang Soo.

"Thanks for the thunderbolt flower potion. It was delicious and because of it, I experienced something phenomenal."

At Hyunsuk's words, Chang Soo closed his eyes. He had no excuse to give to him when Hyunsuk was already aware of what Chang Soo had done.

"You know I actually wondered why you decided to do this now."

Chang Soo looked at Hyunsuk with a confused expression. He could not understand what Hyunsuk was saying.

"But you know, the answer is very obvious," as Hyunsuk said that, he turned his head and looked at the slain thunder dragonfly.

He looked back and forth at Chang Soo and the dragonfly with a sinister look

on his face.

At this point, Chang Soo knew crossing Hyunsuk was a big mistake. Shit.

*

Hyunsuk slowly opened his eyes. What came in view was an all too familiar ceiling.

He was currently laying down on the bed from a one bedroom apartment he had used in his youth. He had used this apartment until he lost his sight. And when he became blind, he moved to a place that was more compatible with his needs. A flood of memories rushed back into his mind.

The most poignant memory was of somebody who had helped him in his times of need. He was suddenly overwhelmed by his emotions, but his eyes still twinkled.

The person that used to help him died in the dungeon. But if he had really gone back to the past, his helper's death had not yet taken place. This meant he could change the fate of his helper.

As you live your life, having somebody that you can trust is the biggest blessing a person could have.

Hyunsuk has had the privilege of meeting someone like this, that is, if he could prevent his blessing's life being taken away in the dungeon. He sat up abruptly and looked around the surroundings of his room. When he returned home last night, he felt as if a certain fullness filled the room.

When he awoke from his sleep, he felt that he woke from a long dream. But, it was not a dream at all.

"Okay first let's understand the situation and then clean up and take things on one by one."

Hyunsuk washed up and changed.

It was time to go see the people he had made an appointment to meet with yesterday. It wasn't likely that they'd keep their appointment with him.

But it didn't matter. In fact, he was hoping that they would not show up to their appointment.

“It probably won’t get through to them until they get a taste of their own medicine

a couple times.”

He heard about Chang Soo Choi a few times in the past. But it was so long ago that it was a fuzzy memory in his mind. Either way, the things he heard about Chang Soo were not good things. The same rumors kept appearing until one day, it all stopped.

Chang Soo probably died. He suddenly disappeared from the world. Not surprising.

But this time, something will definitely be a little different. Whether good or bad luck follows, something will be different.

Hyunsuk left his room. When he got downstairs, with his regained vision, he looked his apartment building up and down. It was a building full of memories, but he could not let those memories hold him back. There was no point in doing so.

When he got enough to look at from the one room apartment, he turned his back on it coldly and walked away. Afterall, there isn’t much of a reason to return to this place.

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Level Up_Chapter 1 Part 3

Level Up

Chapter 1 Part 3

The Dungeon Headquarters.

Hyunsuk stopped in his tracks and looked at the huge building across from him. He thought he had his emotions in control, but now that he was standing face to face with the building, different opinions and feelings started to surface.

It was a place where everything related to the dungeon could be settled. Every player participating in the dungeon had to come here to finish applying and to start playing properly.

But not all players registered through the Dungeon Headquarters to play in the games. There were many players who were not registered. Of course, these players were the ones who used illegal moves in the game.

Hyunsuk walked into the building.

The reason why he came to the Dungeon Headquarters was to sell the magical stone that came out of the thunder dragonfly when he killed it. Unlike all the other stones, this one was big in size. It was unique.

‘I wonder what the market price of the magical stone is...’

Right before his ‘death’, so about 20 years from now, the price of a magical stone of this size would have been about \$10,000. But that was then. Because in the future, magical stones become easier to find.

‘Maybe it’ll even be worth up to \$1,000,000?’

There was no other way but for the price of the magical stone to be so high. Nobody had

figured out the building blocks of the magical stone or the relationship between it and its clutch.

Because of this reason, the chance of being able to extract the magical stone

from the clutch of whatever creature or being was extremely, very low.

Although the method of capturing the creature or being is very important, there is something even more important than that: the slaughter method. If it isn't properly killed, the power inside the stone would just be scattered everywhere.

When he walked into the building, Hyunsuk hesitated for a moment.

He had been in the Dungeon Headquarters countless times before, but that was when he was blind. Hyunsuk could now see everything. It was the first time in a long time that he could see everything.

'Everything's different from what I was familiar with...'

There was a time difference of 20 years. Of course there would have been a difference in the construction of the building.

More than that, the section of the Headquarters that Hyunsuk used the most, was not even built yet. He kept on having to remember that he was 20 years in the past. This building was the primitive version of the Dungeon Headquarters from the future.

'Did this building last about... 10 years?'

10 years later, this building would cease to exist. He wasn't sure of anything else, but he was sure about that. Because Hyunsuk was there when the building collapsed.

Hyunsuk threw away his thoughts and memories and scanned his eyes around the buildings. In the hall, there were a numerous amount of people. Some were very busy taking care of their business, some looked very laid back, as if they had all the time in the world, and some sat at a table leisurely enjoying their coffee.

He once again took in the hall situation and slowly walked towards the last door on the right.

The layout of the Dungeon Headquarters was very simple.

There was a huge hall, and decorating the walls of that hall were many, many doors. In front of every door, there was a line of people waiting to get in. Inside each room, there was a consultant available to help answer each of the player's

issues or questions.

Many of the players did not want to reveal their personal issues to other players. That's why they got to speak to consultants about it secretly away from the ears of different players.

Hyunsuk got lucky and he stood in front of a door that had nobody waiting in line. The door indicated whether there was somebody in the consulting room or not, so it was easy to tell quickly.

A few moments later, a player came out of the room. Hyunsuk walked past him, entered the room, and closed the door.

The room was very simple. There was a window and in front of it was a comfortable sofa.

Hyunsuk sat down and very comfortably sunk into the sofa.

The consultant sitting near the window asked, "Hello, how can I be of service to you

today?"

Hyunsuk took out the magical stone and set it on the window sill. The consultant grabbed

a magnifying glass and carefully inspected it.

The magnifying glass the consultant was using had its own powers and was only used to inspect the things that came out of the dungeon.

"1253 horsepower... I have to check on the details, but if you were to sell this, it would

be worth a little over \$1,000,000."

Hyunsuk slid over a card. It was a bank card that he prepared before going to the Headquarters.

"Put half of the money into the card and the other half, give to me in materials and resources."

When the consultant heard the words "materials and resources" his eyes sparked. Players

who bought materials and resources in the dungeon were special players.

Hyunsuk then took out a piece of paper and handed it over to the consultant. On it, was a list of the things he needed and how much he needed organized very neatly.

As the consultant witnessed this, his eyes very mysteriously, twinkled.

“These... these aren’t materials that are used often, but they are strong in power... Are you experimenting something new?”

Instead of answering, Hyunsuk just waved his hand. He wanted this to be handled as quickly as it could be .

The consultant took a deep breath in and stood up from his desk and walked to the inner side of the room.

There was a huge storage room connected to the consulting room. It was also connected to other storage rooms and because each consultant had his or her own responsibilities, they were able to handle the player’s requests without a problem.

And right on the spot, Hyunsuk’s request was handled.

When the consultant reappeared, he was holding a large leather bag. Inside it was filled with the things that Hyunsuk requested.

As soon as he received the bag, Hyunsuk emptied the contents of it onto the table and inspected the materials that were given to him.

When he finished looking over the items he received, he nodded his head, put the materials back into the leather bag, grabbed the card, and walked out of the room.

As soon as Hyunsuk left the room, the consultant mumbled, “Just by looking at him he looks like a rookie player... but he acts like he’s an advanced player. HA! I guess the ones that front like they’re good are the ones that die first.”

When he finished his sentence, the door swung open and in walked another player. The consultant quickly erased the expression he had on his face and tended to the new player’s needs.

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Level Up_Chapter 1 Part 4

Level Up

Chapter 1 Part 4

Hyunsuk smirked.

“I mean I guess it could’ve seemed like that.”

The consultant mumbled to himself, but Hyunsuk could hear every word he was saying. Every sense that had become sensitive due to his lost sight, remained with him and he was thankful for it.

It will later become his greatest weapon.

“There are other weapons here.”

He threw his bag over his shoulder and laughed.

Having returned to the past gave him knowledge of the future. Although things in the future haven’t been developed yet, Hyunsuk was aware of all the advancements that would take place.

Of course, he couldn’t know every single thing about what would happen. There was a limit to the knowledge of the future that Hyunsuk had. He only knew what he remembered.

Even still, there were many things that he knew which could be applied usefully.

Things that everybody in the future knew, now, Hyunsuk was the only one that possessed this great advantage and knowledge. He would be the key to opening the great future.

“Let’s start with this...”

He lightly touched the bag that was thrown over his shoulder. He couldn’t make or do anything with the materials inside the bag. At least not yet. He was lacking just one thing. But when that one thing comes into his possession, he could make something phenomenal.

The one lacking thing was the eye of the thunder dragonfly.

“Alright... Should we go kill a thunder dragonfly?”

Granted, hunting a thunder dragonfly alone right now was not going to be an easy task. He needed someone to help him. Hyunsuk was going to meet the person that would aid him in catching the thunder dragonfly.

The front of the Dungeon Headquarters looked like a massive downtown city. People were bustling around everywhere. There was no way for the Headquarters to not be successful.

Hyunsuk walked into a cafe and grabbed a table and sat down. He didn't just walk into some random place; this was the place that they had agreed to meet at.

“Not here yet... I mean I guess it'll take some time for him to get here.”

Hyunsuk smiled widely. There was little chance that the person wouldn't come. Although, he probably won't be on time.

He checked the time. It was already three hours past the agreed meeting time. It seemed that Hyunsuk was late to the appointment as well.

Time went by and suddenly, his eyes lit up.

“You're finally here.”

Hyunsuk turned his head and looked out the window of the cafe. From far away, he could see Chang Soo Choi running towards the coffee shop. He could see that Chang Soo was earnest and urgent about the issue.

“That's why people should keep promises well,” Hyunsuk grumbled as he smiled.

The door burst open and Chang Soo ran inside. He looked all around the coffee shop. When he made eye contact with Hyunsuk, he let out a sigh and trudged to his seat and plopped down in front of Hyunsuk. Chang Soo glared menacingly at Hyunsuk.

There was an aura of maliciousness between the two men.

“What did... What the hell did you do to my body?”

“Nobody else came? I guess you’re not that desperate.”

As Hyunsuk sat there mumbling without any thought, Chang Soo spat out his words with a stone hard face.

“They’re hiding and waiting nearby. When we form as a group, you think it’ll be hard to get rid of someone like you? Hand it over when I’m giving you the chance to.”

“Hand what over?” Hyunsuk asked innocently.

“What do you mean what?! Hand over the antidote and don’t give me the bullshit of saying that you’re still in the process of making it. Because if that’s the case, then I would not have made this shit bargain with you.” Chang Soo was livid.

Hyunsuk just nodded.

“I guess you can somewhat interpret the situation. You have some common sense.”

“I didn’t come here to hear that kind of bullshit from you. I already found out all about you so don’t even try to run away. Alright, Hyunsuk Chae?”

Hyunsuk just nodded.

“I guess it’s nice because you’re saying everything that I want to say to you. But with what skills are you going to attack me? Normal civilians are going to try and surprise attack a player? HA! Even the crows are laughing with me.”

Chang Soo gave a sly smirk and looked down on Hyunsuk, “Why wouldn’t I have the skills? Aren’t players human too? If you get stabbed or shot, dying is all the same.”

Once again, Hyunsuk nodded and then stood up from his seat.

“Alright, then try me. Kind of a shame... But! It’s not too late.”

“Too late for what?”

“You know your health? If you just take the antidote, it’ll come right back, but the longer you wait to take the antidote, it becomes harder to turn back. I guess you can just kill me and live the rest of your life without any more power and

health.”

Chang Soo glared at Hyunsuk as chills went down his back. Watching this, all Hyunsuk did was give a smile.

“A human is an adapting animal. Either way, I think you’ll get used to it. Of course, the first few months will be hard, but it’ll become easier to live.”

After Hyunsuk said those words, he turned his back around without any regret. And he left.

Chang Soo on the other hand was overwhelmed and shocked by this encounter. He didn’t think that Hyunsuk would just turn his back around and leave like that. Chang Soo stood up from his seat quickly and rushed out after Hyunsuk.

“Wa-Wait! Stop right there you bastard!”

When Chang Soo exited the door, he abruptly stopped. And soon, with eyes filled by anger, stared at Hyunsuk.

Hyunsuk was standing outside leaning on the building with a smile on his face. He knew that Chang Soo would run out after him.

“Now that I think about it, I didn’t get to finish my coffee.”

Hyunsuk walked back into the cafe and sat in his seat and took a swig of his coffee.

Because Hyunsuk looked so laid back, there was a boiling anger threatening to spill over in Chang Soo. But he knew that he could not say anything out of haste and agitation.

“Just to let you know, if we can’t handle this in 30 minutes, the ability to get all your health and powers back will completely disappear. What a shame, huh?”

Although Chang Soo was being completely overwhelmed with fury, he held it down and spoke calmly, “I’ll do as you say, so give me the antidote.”

“Excuse me? I can’t hear you,” Hyunsuk taunted Chang Soo and looked around his surroundings to figure out where Chang Soo’s friend’s were hiding.

‘This adrenaline, it’s not bad.’

There was a possibility that they would make a surprise attack. Of course, without any weapons it would be a hard attempt, but if they had guns and knives, killing a player was easy.

Hyunsuk's ability to see and sense things was very sharp. And they were getting sharper by the minute.

'Well... I found them... But one of them isn't here yet.'

Chang Soo's group consisted of five people. Six including him, but Chang Soo was sitting in front of him. So there should be five people waiting and watching outside.

No matter how much he focused on finding the fifth person, he couldn't sense the fifth.

'That probably means just one thing.'

The last person was waiting outside of Hyunsuk's supernatural ability of being able to sense people.

The possibility of the person scoping out the situation from a roof top was very high.

'They really took things into consideration and prepared...'

Hyunsuk smirked. Sniping was a smart and effective method to use to kill people. It was effective for anybody and anything, really. But Hyunsuk was an exception.

If the act of sniping was to be played on Hyunsuk, his reason to live and his survival instincts would kick in. That was why Hyunsuk was an exception.

The method of killing that Hyunsuk was more afraid of and worried about was a kill that would come at him fiercely, and head on. If it was a machine gun rapidly firing at him, there would be no chance for him to flee the scene at all. He would have to fight off the bullets with just his energy, but right now, Hyunsuk did not have that strength. His health, strength, and power was low. It would increase, but that would take time.

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Level Up_Chapter 1 Part 5

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Chapter 1 Part 5

After Hyunsuk located all of Chang Soo's comrades, he looked at Chang Soo in the eye.

"Did you just say that you would do everything I tell you to do?"

Chang Soo felt chills running down his back and his confidence level dropped right when they met eye contact. Hyunsuk's eyes held so much evil and malice in them.

'Is this fool really 21? He probably just started... How can a rookie player hold such an effect on me like this?'

Chang Soo thought for a second that he was sitting face to face with a veteran player.

Still, even veteran players only played for 3 years, and the only difference between a veteran player and Chang Soo would be that he was 3 years less experienced.

But still, the experience given to players fighting to the death in the dungeon does not go anywhere. Even if they sat still, the veteran players would give off an aura of being able to kill someone easily.

The feeling that Chang Soo got from looking at Hyunsuk was the exact aura that veteran players gave off constantly.

"Then gather around the people in your group. I told you earlier, right? If you do not take the antidote in a matter of 30 minutes, the ability of reviving the complete amount of it will disappear. You would only be able to obtain half of your strength."

"That wasn't a joke? You were being serious?"

Chang Soo's expression quickly dropped and hardened. If Hyunsuk was being serious, Chang Soo and his group were completely screwed. What would be the

point of taking the antidote when half of their strength would be gone?

A player's power was the most important thing. If they had a lot of power, they were a strong player. If they did not have a lot of strength, they were a weak player.

If he hesitated and the 30 minute time that was given to them ran out, Chang Soo wondered how much the people in his group would hate him. He hurried outside and waved his hand around in the air.

This was one of the signs that Chang Soo and his group members established. This signal was actually a signal that told them to attack, but he and his group members did not establish a sign that said it was safe to come out and to gather. There was nothing else he could do in order to have them come out.

Four people ran out from different directions. Chang Soo yelled out to them before they mistakenly decided to attack Hyunsuk, "Stop! Just come here!"

As they were coming towards him, his eyes widened.

"Oh my gosh! Myung Suk!"

Chang Soo quickly turned his head around to the building that Myung Suk was standing by on. Right then, there was a very loud noise along with the sounds of windows breaking.

CRAAACK!

Myung Suk, who was waiting for that attack signal, fired the sniper when he saw it. His sniper skills were phenomenal. The chance that he hit the target, Hyunsuk, was very high.

This was not the plan that Chang Soo was going for. But strangely, Chang Soo started to relax a little. Until he realized the full impact of what this meant.

"Oh... shit!"

Chang Soo hit the wall with his fist.

CRACK!

"OW!"

An immense amount of pain shot down his hand. If he had any power left, the

building would have shook instead of his hand hurting. But because he did not have any strength, he was made into an idiot by hitting his hand.

The pain in his hand would have been unbearable should he have been completely aware of what happened, but the rush of adrenaline that the situation brought to Chang Soo was enough to make him forget about the pain in his hand.

“How the hell am I supposed to regain my lost strength? Myung Suk that idiot! He didn’t even look carefully or listen to what I was saying and he shot! What the hell am I supposed to do now?”

But all Myung Suk did was act upon the established plan. He did nothing wrong.

It did not register in Chang Soo’s head that Myung Suk was only doing as he was ordered. Chang Soo was panicking and he started to get very angry.

“If all of that was not an act, then I can just assume and take that you had no idea the situation would turn like this and that he would attack me. Am I right?”

Chang Soo’s body was covered in chills. He turned around his neck stiffly and cautiously in the direction of where the voice came from.

“Woah!”

Chang Soo jumped up in the air and backed up from being so surprised. Hyunsuk was standing there without a scratch on his body and completely unfazed.

Well, it wasn’t like he was completely untouched. His clothes were covered in dirt and debris as if he rolled around on the floor to dodge the attack.

‘Did he really dodge that attack? Myung Suk’s sniper attack? In that chaotic situation?’

Hyunsuk looked at Chang Soo’s surprised expression and spoke, “Are you going to leave him like that?” Hyunsuk moved his chin in the direction of where Myung Suk was standing on top of the roof top. Startled, Chang Soo turned his head around and looked up at him.

Myung Suk was pointing a gun that had a silencer attached in the direction of

where Hyunsuk was standing. Meanwhile, Hyunsuk moved so that he was using Chang Soo as his body shield and avoiding the aim that Myung Suk had on him.

That's when Chang Soo suddenly realized what Hyunsuk was doing. He quickly lifted his hands above his head and started to wave his hands around in the air. Myung Suk lowered his gun when he saw the movements. Chang Soo waved his hand to Myung Suk, signaling him to come down from the roof building. Everybody that was passing by, stared at Chang Soo because of the commotion he was creating.

Hyunsuk slowly backed away and created a good amount of distance between them. He was trying to act like he did not know Chang Soo. Noticing the caution that Hyunsuk was taking, Chang Soo's group members also put a distance between each other and a distance between themselves and Chang Soo.

When Chang Soo realized what was happening, his face flared up red and he glared at each of his group members with eyes filled with embarrassment. He stopped moving his hands in the air.

But the awkward situation didn't last long. Everybody had to group up when Myung Suk reached them and enter back into the coffee shop.

*

"This... This is the antidote?"

Chang Soo was inspecting the small, blue marble that was placed into his hand and grumbling to himself. His comrades were doing the same thing. The antidote was giving off a weird gleam and they could not bring themselves to consume it.

More than that, how could they trust that the small marble would bring back their powers?

Hyunsuk sat in his seat with a leisured look on his face.

"I think there might be about... 5 minutes left? I mean, I took everybody's power at different times so it is possible that somebody's time of regaining your power might have already expired."

These people were feeling the toll of not having their complete strength with them on their body. They did not feel like players from the dungeon, but rather

just like normal civilians. Chang Soo's group was in a deep thought. It didn't matter what the small marble did to them because they had already hit rock bottom; they had nothing more to lose.

The six of them all put the antidote into their mouths at the same time.

"UGH!"

They all felt the taste in their mouths at once. The antidote was extremely bitter.

But the effect was also as strong as the bitterness.

'Shit... How is the bitter taste lasting all the way into my stomach?'

They could not understand how the taste continued to last throughout their entire body. It wasn't just lingering on their tongues, but it traveled through every inch of their body.

Each and every person could feel their powers being restored in the spots where the bitterness touched.

They shuddered and shook as they felt the power filling up the empty spots of their body.

The feeling of having the lost strength touch every part of their body was pure ecstasy. It could not be put into words of how great it felt.

They had to contain the sounds of excitement from escaping their mouths. But no matter how hard they tried, a small sound always came out from the corner of their mouths.

It was a very unique event.

Hyunsuk separated himself a little from Chang Soo's group.

A few moments later, the first person that came to his right mind was Chang Soo himself. He was sprawled across his chair staring at the ceiling and then slowly turned to look at Hyunsuk. Chang Soo's eyes were glowing menacingly.

"This really is the antidote. All of my strength really came back."

Chang Soo's comrades, one by one lifted their heads and stood up. They could not control the sudden power they felt flowing through their bodies and stared

at Hyunsuk with the same malicious glow.

Chang Soo started to laugh hysterically and looked at Hyunsuk straight in the eye and spat out his words syllable by syllable, “Now, what is our naive player going to do?”

All Hyunsuk did was smile widely at this.

“Who are you saying is naive?”

Chang Soo’s heart stopped for a moment. He recalled the smile that Hyunsuk was giving from something that happened in the dungeon before. Deja vu.

He swallowed hard.

Chang Soo knew that Hyunsuk’s smile was an omen. And not for anything good.

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Chang Soo's bad feelings were very, very accurate.

They didn't consume an antidote, rather, it was a temporary medication that gave them their strength back for the time being.

'How the hell is that a rookie player! What a lying, manipulative asshole!'

Chang Soo silently cursed Hyunsuk in his head. But he did not let his smile falter from his face.

Hyunsuk was absorbing the looks that he was receiving from the six people. He could not help but to smile bigger.

"You can think of it as a form of insurance. At least I didn't kill you."

Chang Soo ground his teeth. But he knew it was true. If Hyunsuk wanted to kill them, he could have done so easily in the dungeon when they lost their consciousness.

Truthfully, if you died in the dungeon, it was not an easy thing to be identified unless your killer took your body to the Dungeon Headquarters and had you identified. This was because if you died in the dungeon, it was bound that you would reincarnate in some other level, or just disintegrate so it wasn't even required for your corpse to be taken back.

On the same note, if you cleared all the levels in the dungeon, the dungeon would disappear, and so would your dead body. In which case, it would definitely be impossible to be identified and found.

But Chang Soo could not be grateful for this situation.

"So are you saying that you're going to use us like your slaves?"

"I already said that this was all part of the plan. All I am doing is doing exactly what you did to me."

Chang Soo wanted to ask what exactly Hyunsuk was planning to do with them. But he could not bring himself to do so because Chang Soo's confidence disappeared more and more every second that Hyunsuk was looking at him.

'I am almost one hundred percent sure that he is a rookie player... There is absolutely no way that he has that much strength... But why am I being like this?'

Players had the ability of checking how much strength, health, and power other players possessed.

But if the other player decides to hide the amount of strength, health, and power they have, it was hard for the player trying to read how much they have to be able to access their source level. It wasn't completely impossible because stronger players could still figure it out with a use of a small amount of their power.

Chang Soo shook his head from left to right. That's why he was even more baffled. He was able to sense that Hyunsuk's health, strength, and power was one of the lowest of the lows. He was definitely a rookie. Chang Soo knew that it could not have been any more than a month since Hyunsuk had become a player.

But when Hyunsuk looked at him with those eyes, Chang Soo could not help but feel inferior to him. It felt as if he was sitting and handling the veteran of the veteran players who drew in their power by feeding on players weaker than them on the daily.

"Well anyways, now that you took the temporary antidote that provides access to your skills for a month, if you don't take the next batch, you are going to lose it all and there will be no turning back. So don't forget to be cooperative with me."

Chang Soo was starting to get nervous. He had never heard of an antidote that had a temporary effect. But he wasn't doubting that it wasn't a medicine that did not exist just because he did not know that it existed.

After the dungeon was created, rather than things being realistic, everything was idealistic.

“What exactly... do you want from us?”

“Nothing much, really. Just thought I’d go hunting for a thunder dragonfly.”

Chang Soo’s facial expression changed once again. He was planning to never hunt the thunder dragonfly again. The thought of having to do such an action once again against his will pissed him off.

‘Wait... How is he saying that he’s going to hunt it? When we hunt it, we need someone to consume the thunderbolt flower potion to play as bait...’

Chang Soo nervously looked at Hyunsuk. Followed by the look that he received from Hyunsuk, his heart dropped down to his stomach once again.

For some reason, he already knew the answer to his question.

‘We’re so screwed.’

Chang Soo and his group members all dropped their heads with devastation.

“Dodge!”

At the command of Chang Soo, his comrades all ran in different directions. Around them were bolts of lightning and thunder being thrown at them.

THUNK!

Chang Soo was almost struck by the thunder. He probably wouldn’t have died, but he would have been paralyzed and it was bound that he would have been eaten alive piece by piece by the thunder dragonfly.

“What the hell are you doing!”

Almost as if Hyunsuk was responding to Chang Soo’s question, he slid and cut the monstrous creature. Because Hyunsuk attacked the dragonfly when it was throwing out bolts of thunder, the dragonfly did not react.

And then suddenly it shrieked. It was the sound of the connecting limbs severing and its bodily fluids coming out. It echoed all throughout the dungeon.

Chang Soo slightly relaxed when he saw this and looked at Hyunsuk at he was running down the back of the dragonfly.

It wasn't the first time Chang Soo witnessed this. But every time, he was struck with awe and wonder when he saw Hyunsuk fearlessly pursuing the death of the thunder dragonfly.

'Either he has some unknown supernatural strength or he received special training...'

If that wasn't the case, it was impossible that Hyunsuk could have master such agility and strength. Especially because there was absolutely no mistake in Hyunsuk's movements.

BANG!

Hyunsuk's knife had penetrated the weak point of the thunder dragonfly.

This had concluded the seventh hunt of the thunder dragonfly. It wasn't just an ordinary thunder dragonfly, but it was a thunder dragonfly that had the power to change and control its thunder bolts.

'This is really weird... Were thunder dragonflies this common in the dungeon?'

This dungeon was extremely weird. It was definitely a Bronze 1 level dungeon. In this level of a dungeon, the act of the thunder dragonfly was the boss. It was the most powerful thing in the level.

But in this dungeon, the thunder dragonfly was appearing to be of just ordinary strength.

Because of this, only Chang Soo's group members were dying out. He couldn't count how many times they were struck by the lightning bolts.

The thing that put him at ease was the fact that Hyunsuk gave him a green capsule that significantly increased their strengths. If they didn't take that medicine, they probably would all be sprawled dead on the floor.

Chang Soo was laying down on the floor, resting and he strained to sit up. His comrades who were also lying exhausted on the floor besides him, sat up slowly.

They stood up and slowly approached Hyunsuk.

Hyunsuk was sitting on top of the dead thunder dragonfly's body and

extracting the magical stone.

“Another one? How the hell are you so lucky?”

At this point, it wasn't just luck. Hyunsuk knew something special in order to let this continue happening.

If you told anybody that throughout seven hunts, all seven times you were able to extract a magical stone, nobody would have believed you.

But in the dungeon, that's what reality was.

It had only been a mere 5 hours since Chang Soo's group and Hyunsuk had entered the dungeon. In that 5 hours, Hyunsuk had made an amount of over \$7,000,000.

On top of that, their hunt had not ended yet.

‘I wonder how many more thunder dragonflies there are in this dungeon.’

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In an average dungeon, there are about 10 different creatures scattered around. It was also possible that there might have been over 20 creatures in the dungeon, but that was very rare.

So there was an amount of 10-20 thunder dragonflies in this level of the dungeon.

Chang Soo approached Hyunsuk while he was pulling out the magical stone from the dragonfly.

“This dungeon... are you ever planning to clear it?”

“Of course I’m going to clear it. Isn’t it obvious?”

“Yeah it is... but...”

Chang Soo looked at Hyunsuk doubtfully. What he said was true though.

The difference between clearing a dungeon and not clearing it was immense.

A player increases his strength, power, and health by fighting the creatures in the dungeon. To put it in simpler, but more accurate terms, they deepen and increase the amount of how much they can take in.

The wider and deeper their bowl of strength absorption, the more power they are able to gain. And that plate did not grow gradually within time, but rather, it grew an immense amount when a creature was defeated.

Almost like breaking the old, smaller bowl and replacing it with a bigger, better one. When a player fights continuously with a monster in the dungeon, their power increases constantly.

When it piles up, that is how you continue to grow and deepen your bowl where your power is all held. But the time when you gain the most increase is

when you cleared a level. That was when an uncontainable amount of power flowed through your body.

That was why it was a given thing that a dungeon was cleared by a player. But right now, there was something different about the dungeon.

“You’re really going to give up this golden opportunity of a dungeon? Are you serious?”

If you didn’t clear the dungeon within a given amount of time, naturally, the monsters and creatures in that dungeon would regenerate.

The reason why these people were called players was because they were successfully able to clear the level and survive the danger. They were playing with fire. Gambling with their lives. They were different from everybody else.

Finding a dungeon with these many thunder dragonflies was harder to do than picking a star from the sky.

Of course, making a dungeon level like this last as long as possible was more advantageous for the player. Just like what Hyunsuk was doing right now.

Hyunsuk did not reply to Chang Soo’s question. Instead, he continued to hack apart the thunder dragonfly.

The most important part of the dragonfly was the magical stone it held and the second was the pouch of thunderbolt power it held in its chest. The third thing that was worth something was its wings. Lastly, the hexagon shaped eyes it possessed also held a big amount of worth.

Everything else on the dragonfly was basically useless.

Compared to other creatures in the dungeon, the thunder dragonfly did not have many useful parts to it. But because the magical stone it carried held a great value to it, it didn’t matter much.

The thunderbolt power pouch and the hexagon shaped eyes were also worth a lot of money.

Hyunsuk carefully dissected these things from the dragonfly and put them into his bag. He put the green fluid filled eyes away separately.

Truthfully, as important as the magical stone was to him, the green fluid was

probably the most important thing that Hyunsuk needed.

“You’re really closing this dungeon?”

“After I hunt all the dragonflies that are left and kill the boss, I’m going to clear the dungeon.”

All Chang Soo did at these words was shake his head. By dragging it out even more, they would be able to make more money, but it seemed like Hyunsuk wasn’t going to take the full advantage of it.

‘Now that I think about it... I don’t even know how much money he’s going to share with us...’

Chang Soo became angry. His group was being used like slaves by Hyunsuk and there was no guarantee that they would be receiving any money in compensation for the damage that came to them.

‘Should I just snitch to the Dungeon Headquarters?’

He quickly threw that thought away. Chang Soo already knew that he’d face the bigger problems if he ran his mouth in that way.

There was nothing he could do. He was out of answers.

From afar, Chang Soo could see another thunder dragonfly coming towards their way. All he could do was let out a loud sigh.

It was time to fight again.

*

BANG!

Watching the dungeon doors close was always a fascinating and wonderful thing to do.

Just like when glass breaks into little pieces, the dungeon world collapsed into pixel like pieces and rained down. The pieces that fall down would turn into a whirlwind and blow and the pieces would break into something smaller. Those pieces were forms of power, strength, and health that the players got at the end of their game.

Chang Soo was feeling every microscopic piece of energy being put into his

body and he closed his eyes while exhaling.

These were the moments when Chang Soo knew that becoming a player was one of the best choices that he had ever made.

He felt like he was light enough to fly away, had the strength to achieve anything he wished for, and his body felt as if it was being washed from its dirtiness from the fights.

It was almost as if he was being reborn.

The shower of power ended. Chang Soo opened his eyes and looked around for Hyunsuk. His expression changed bizarrely.

‘What the hell is that...?’

Hyunsuk’s expression was very weird. Actually, it was pretty funny to look at.

‘What kind of an expression is that? I can’t even put it into words.’

If he was to explain, it was like looking at a person who’s never seen a dungeon be cleared before.

But that wasn’t the only thing. There was something more behind Hyunsuk’s expression.

Whether it was admiration or surprise, it was hard for Chang Soo to tell.

“What are you going to do now? Are you going to go sell all those things that you got?”

Chang Soo was slightly worn out. He felt like his power capacity increased greatly as the dungeon was cleared but something also felt a bit off.

That’s why it was the best idea for them to get checked up at the Dungeon Headquarters. He would do that after.

“We’re moving onto the next dungeon.”

When they heard those words, Chang Soo and his group members already knew that their hunt would not come to an easy end.

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The dungeon didn't just appear anywhere. There was a designated area where dungeons appeared. Those areas were controlled by the Dungeon Headquarters, but they could not be in control of all the dungeons.

Sometimes, there were dungeons being created by itself and there were dungeon hot spots that have not been discovered yet.

But the area that Hyunsuk and Chang Soo's group was in, was one of the places that were being watched by the Dungeon Headquarters.

Chang Soo looked at Hyunsuk with a confused look on his face.

Hyunsuk was carefully choosing the next dungeon to clear.

This land was originally a part of the northern parts of Gyeonggi-do. But as dungeons started appearing, it became a land that was handed over to the Dungeon Headquarters.

There were two significant differences in the dungeons. It differed so much that even the naked eye could sense it.

Hyunsuk slowly looked around the different dungeons.

There were a total of 78 different dungeons floating around in the air. Hyunsuk would be

choosing one of these dungeons to enter next.

But because there were an immense amount of dungeons being cleared, only 40 of them were accessible to other players.

No matter how many dungeons were cleared, this area had a set amount of 78 dungeons.

There would not be an increase of numbers of dungeons.

The floating dungeons appeared to be sucking in everything around them, but in reality it wasn't absorbing anything. Even the air that was flowing around it didn't exist.

There were two colors that indicated the type and level of the dungeons: black and white.

There were many more black dungeons than white dungeons. Even in different dungeon hot spots, black dungeons were ten times more common than white dungeons.

It was a given that the thunder dragonfly was a part of a black dungeon and the dungeon that Hyunsuk was looking for was a black dungeon.

"This is it."

Hyunsuk walked in front of the dungeon he chose and stopped. A bronze level 1 dungeon.

You could figure out the level of the dungeon by how fast it was spinning and the size of the floating orbs. Anybody could see that the speed of how fast the orbs were spinning determined the level of the dungeon. For example, a level 5 dungeon's orb spinned very slowly.

And a bronze level 1 dungeon's orb seemed like it wasn't moving at all because it was spinning so fast. It was super easy to determine the middle level, level 3 of the dungeons because it spinned at a mediocre way.

A bronze level's orb was half as big as an adult male's height. A silver level was as big as an adult male. A gold level was twice the size of a silver level.

In this area, there were dungeons all the way up to the gold level. But if you went to a more popular area for dungeons, there were levels of platinum and diamond.

The level higher than diamond was the King level. There were only two that existed in the entire world and a level higher than the King had not been discovered yet.

Anyways, Hyunsuk was standing in front of a bronze level 1 dungeon. He turned around and looked at Chang Soo and his group. It was his indication that

he wanted them to enter the dungeon first.

“Why don’t you give us some time to rest before using us like slaves again?”

Hyunsuk didn’t respond to Chang Soo’s question. Instead, he just stared at Chang Soo and his group.

At Hyunsuk’s reaction, Chang Soo turned around with an embarrassed look and walked towards the dungeon while grumbling.

Almost as if Chang Soo was being sucked into the incredible speed of the orb, he entered the dungeon and his comrades went in after him.

“It’s taking longer than I thought... I guess we have to call it a day here,” Hyunsuk mumbled while approaching the dungeon’s entrance.

But different from the words he mumbled, his facial expression was bright. It was because a few days later, Chang Soo and his group members would become accustomed to the hunting routine that they would become faster.

Hyunsuk’s goal was to get through a dungeon five times in one day.

In one dungeon, it was possible to obtain 15 magical stones therefore, it means that it was possible to make an ideal total of \$75,000,000.

Of course, if Hyunsuk took all the magical stones to the Dungeon Headquarters at once, they would get suspicious. But if he allocated the magical stones properly and took them in a timely manner, he would be making a steady amount of money throughout the rest of his life.

Truthfully, there was something way more important to him than selling the magical stones to get money.

Hyunsuk looked up at the floating letters on top of the dungeon and he entered.

“The Changing Thunder Dragonfly Dungeon.”

That was what was written on top of the swirling orb.

*

“Oh shit! Run!” Chang Soo yelled out very loudly. As soon as the people that was a part of his group heard, they all scattered in different directions.

RIIIP!

There was a huge vine coming towards them like a whip. Chang Soo felt chills run down his back. If he was to be hit by it, his body would have been split in half down the middle.

‘Shit! What the hell is this guy doing?!’

Chang Soo rolled his body forward in search of Hyunsuk. From a distance, he saw Hyunsuk standing and signaling for them to come towards him.

CRACK!

If Chang Soo hadn’t moved, he would have been hit by the vine that passed by the spot that he was just in. There was a huge gaping crack on the floor.

The thing that they were handling in this dungeon was called the Vine Ghost. It is the dungeon’s master creature.

Earlier, it wasn’t this hard to handle the creature. It was because Hyunsuk was working with them to defeat it.

Hyunsuk was unbelievably, incredibly skilled at wielding a blade. The knife that he was holding had a blade of 50 centimeters and with that, he chopped and cut the vines that were coming at him without any problems or struggles.

That was why it was so easy for him to capture the master creature of the dungeon.

But that was not the case right now. Hyunsuk had completely taken himself out of the fight.

When Chang Soo’s group and Hyunsuk were fighting the thunder dragonfly, Chang Soo and his group members worked together to fight and bait the dragonfly while Hyunsuk delivered the most crucial and vital attacks to the creature. But right now, Hyunsuk was being completely nonchalant and it pissed Chang Soo off because he was not helping them.

If it was up to Chang Soo, he wanted to hold the knife that Hyunsuk was holding and wield it around to cut up the Vine Ghost.

But that was not something just anyone could do.

Another vine flew towards him. Chang Soo clenched his teeth hard and swung his knife in the direction of the flying vine.

SLICE!

This was the strength of the Vine Ghost. Although the vines that it threw out were slender and narrow in width, it was as strong as steel.

Chang Soo thought it was incredible that Hyunsuk had managed to cut through these vines multiple times.

“Oh shit! What the hell is he doing?!”

Chang Soo could not hold in his frustration and yelled out. At that moment, something had flown towards the Vine Ghost.

There was a grotesque cutting noise. The Vine Ghost’s head had been severed cleanly. And just like a joke, the vines stopped moving.

Chang Soo was face to face with the vine. He swallowed hard and slowly turned his head to look at the spot of where the Vine Ghost’s head had been cut.

Honestly speaking, Chang Soo wasn’t even aware that that was where the Vine Ghost’s neck was. He just thought it was a tree that was wrapped in numerous amounts of vines that shot them out in order to attack.

‘That was the weak point of the Vine Ghost?’

His body was covered with chills. Chang Soo turned around in the direction of where Hyunsuk was standing.

Hyunsuk was sitting on top of a hill looking like he was completely exhausted. It seemed as if he used a lot of his power to throw the knife in order to save Chang Soo.

Chang Soo was walking towards Hyunsuk but stopped. Hyunsuk had stood up and started walking in Chang Soo’s direction.

Hyunsuk did not even look at Chang Soo. Instead, he headed straight for the dead body of the Vine Ghost.

Just like the thunder dragonfly, the Vine Ghost did not have many valuable

parts on its body.

It didn't even possess a magical stone.

'If it's the master creature of this dungeon level, its magical stone would have held a big value...'

From the outside, this dungeon was a bronze 1 level dungeon, but this was where the changing thunder dragonfly resided.

It was a dungeon that was definitely different from what it seemed like on the outside.

That was why when this dungeon was cleared, the amount of power received by it was unbelievably huge.

Chang Soo stared at Hyunsuk, who was probing around the useless Vine Ghost's body and approached him.

But there was no point in doing so. Hyunsuk had finished searching for anything valuable on the body and he stood up.

In Hyunsuk's hand, he held a very large magical stone.

"You, one lucky bastard."

In all the creatures that Hyunsuk hunted, he was able to retrieve a magical stone out of it. Chang Soo was now sure of it. It wasn't just luck; Hyunsuk had a secret as to how to dissect the magical stone.

That was why Hyunsuk didn't partake in the fight and patiently waited until he was given a chance to throw his knife at the Vine Ghost's weak point.

There were different ways to kill different creatures, but Hyunsuk was planning to only kill the Vine Ghost and the thunder dragonfly in front of Chang Soo.

From this, all that Chang Soo would gain was probably just the two: the Vine Ghost and the thunder dragonfly. But even gaining those two creatures wouldn't be an easy fight.

"Let's go. Today's hunt ends here."

At Hyunsuk's words, Chang Soo and his group followed him. But their eyes

were different. They were all thinking what Chang Soo was thinking.

In order to close the dungeon, you must kill the boss creature of the level and find the core of the dungeon and destroy it.

The core of the dungeon didn't present itself until you have killed the boss creature.

'Well... the core doesn't have to show in order for you to destroy it...'

Hyunsuk was incredibly sensitive to the flow of magic. Therefore, even if it didn't show to the naked eye, he could sense about where the core of the dungeon was.

He could also destroy it.

But he wasn't going to do so. Hyunsuk knew all too well of what would happen if he was to close a dungeon level when there were creatures still alive in it.

Finding the core wasn't hard to do. The core held an incredible amount of power, health, and strength in it. Even a normal player could walk around it and come to sense that the core was nearby.

The core was in the shape of a huge boulder. If you broke that, the dungeon would close.

When the dungeon closed, you received power, health, and strength.

Hyunsuk approached the core and stood in front of it. You didn't break the core using strength.

WHOOSH!

Hyunsuk poured his power into the core. The core started burning bright red.

Chang Soo, who was witnessing this act thought, 'Geez... If you looked at the things he does, you'd never think that he was a rookie player in the dungeons.'

Who the hell is this guy?

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Level Up_Chapter 3 Part 1

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Chang Soo had already seen Hyunsuk break a core of a dungeon earlier, but that didn't change the fact that it still amazed him.

Rookie players could not push their power into the core that naturally.

Speaking honestly, even Chang Soo himself, who had been a player for 8 months did not think that he would be able to handle the core as well as Hyunsuk.

While Chang Soo was thinking, all of a sudden the core started cracking in half.

CRACK!

The core had broken into pieces.

WHOOSH!

The power from the core came rushing at them.

Hyunsuk, Chang Soo, and his group were standing where the dungeon had been.

There was a long blade floating in the air above them.

“An artifact!” Chang Soo's eyes widened with surprise.

An artifact was another thing that could be gained by a player when the dungeon had been cleared and closed.

Everyone's eyes started glowing with greed and jealousy when they saw the artifact in the air.

Artifact.

When a dungeon was cleared, it was a very rare object that held a lot of power, health, and strength that appeared. That was what an artifact was.

That is what appeared in front of them. It was also in the shape of something that was very popular amongst the players: a weapon.

Chang Soo, his group, and Hyunsuk were all looking at the same thing with greed. But nobody stretched out their hands to grab the sword.

The item belonged to the person that did the most work in the dungeon. That wasn't a rule decided by the players, but it was a rule set by the Dungeon Headquarters.

Everything was decided by how much power you had left at the end of the game. It was clear that if you worked the most, you would have the least amount of power left and the artifact was to belong to that person in order to replenish their strength.

There wasn't an infinite amount of time for the artifact to be claimed. After a certain amount of time has passed, the artifact disappears. It leaves the power, strength, and health behind though.

Speaking in terms of a game, it was basically like somebody leaving behind their experiences without them being actually present.

Hyunsuk was just standing and staring at the artifact. That made Chang Soo's group more anxious and they started pacing their feet.

"Aren't you going to grab it? There's not much time left..."

At these words, Hyunsuk turned his head and looked around his surroundings. There were at least 30 people that were looking in his direction of the floating artifact. They were all looking at Hyunsuk and Chang Soo's group with jealousy and malice.

Hyunsuk could tell amongst the people as to who was a player and who was a regular civilian because players were the ones with names floating above their heads.

You would think that there would only be players around because it was the dungeon hot spot. But that was not the case.

It was very likely that the normal civilians were actually the Dungeon Headquarters' employees. There were also normal people around who came

to watch the games.

Because the sight of the black and white swirling orbs, it was known as a unique place. The dungeon hot spot was sometimes treated like a tourist attraction.

There was no chance that a civilian would be sucked into a dungeon. It was safe.

The sight of watching a dungeon close and having an artifact appear was a rare sighting. It was very interesting to watch.

Hyunsuk became very aware of his surroundings. He saw the civilians, the players, the employees, and the dungeon security cameras watching him as he grabbed the floating artifact.

CLANG!

It sounded like something had broken and Hyunsuk was holding onto the sword. He felt the power of it spread out all around him.

Hyunsuk was aware that the sword was in the reality with him.

While holding onto the sword, Hyunsuk turned around and spoke, "We'll stop here today. I'll contact you with further information later."

After Hyunsuk said those words, he exited the dungeon hot spot.

Chang Soo was taken aback as he watched Hyunsuk walk away.

"What kind of a guy is that?"

No matter how many times he tried to change his opinions, he couldn't believe that Hyunsuk was 21 years old. There was no way that he could have this much control over them at such a young age.

"What should we do?" asked Myung Sik Park. He was standing near Chang Soo. At that, Chang Soo finally released his stare on Hyunsuk's disappearing back and looked at his group.

Each member was haggard looking. Of course, they had all participated in helping clear two dungeons in one day.

'How did he manage to pick the exact ones...?'

Chang Soo's mind was complicated, but he brushed his clothes off and faced his group and spoke, "Well first, let's go and rest up. If he needs us, he'll contact us."

None of the people in his group spoke. Chang Soo departed in hopes that Hyunsuk would not contact them or need their help often.

*

There were a total of 10 different doors that were accessible through the fence that guarded the dungeon hot spot. They were all watched over by the Dungeon Headquarters.

If you opened one of the doors and walked through, there was a room. In that room, all the items retrieved in the dungeon were inspected.

You couldn't hide the things you found in the dungeon by trying to deceive them. They had the skills to detect the magic that the things held and everything was inspected thoroughly that way.

After the items were placed on the table, they were checked, recorded, and returned to the rightful owners.

If the players didn't get their items checked and tried to deceive their way out of it and were caught, the items were confiscated from them right on the spot.

Nobody really bothered to go to that extreme of hiding something. It wasn't like the Dungeon Headquarters didn't return the items or gave them problems for it. They just simply wanted to make a record of what was going out of the dungeons. That was why the players complied so easily.

Truthfully, this act was to prevent anything dangerous from the dungeon world enter into the normal world.

Hyunsuk walked towards the table. There were three men that watched over the area with wide eyes.

The first thing Hyunsuk did was look above their heads and checked their names.

'They're all players.'

He could see their names clearly above their heads. Out of the three men, the one named Soo Han Kim spoke to him.

“Sir, if you would just put the items you retrieved from the dungeon on the table please.”

The first thing Hyunsuk put down was the sword he was holding in his hand. There was no way to hide this sword because everybody that was in eyesight reach of him saw that he grabbed the sword. It was a given that it was probably caught by the security cameras as well.

Hyunsuk tapped the knives that were wrapped around his waist.

“Do I have to put these down too?”

He was asking if they were going to inspect the weapons that was with him before he entered the dungeons.

Soo Han smiled and nodded his head, “It would be greatly appreciated if you did that.”

Soo Han spoke politely, but it was really an order that Hyunsuk had to follow. Hyunsuk cooperated without any trouble and just put the knives down onto the table.

Then he took off the bag that he had on his back and took out a few things from it.

The inspector's eyes widened.

“You retrieved a magical stone of a great size...”

Soo Han was so surprised that he continued to look back and forth at Hyunsuk and the magical stone that was in Hyunsuk's hand. He was admiring him.

That magical stone belonged to the Vine Ghost.

The three men in the room were constantly checking the security cameras of the dungeon so they were already aware of what level Hyunsuk had cleared.

Hyunsuk had undoubtedly cleared a Bronze 1 level dungeon. He cleared it very quickly and there was a special artifact that showed itself at the end, but

there was nothing else special about it.

But as they saw the size of the magical stone that Hyunsuk had taken out, it was a size that was retrievable in a Gold 5 level. They would have to hold a thorough inspection in order to know for sure, but its worth seemed to be about \$4,000,000.

Next to the huge magical stone, Hyunsuk placed two more smaller ones.

Soo Han's face turned into an expression of deep surprise.

"You were extremely lucky. You extracted 3 magical stones from one dungeon."

Hyunsuk didn't take anymore magical stones out. Instead, he took out other things that were well known to be useful in the player's world.

The thunder dragonfly's thunder pouch, its hexagonal pieces of the eyes, and the Vine Ghost's fruits were all laid out on the table.

Soo Han questioned him, "Is this all?"

It was a courtesy question.

It was a given that there would be products out of the dungeon once it was clear. If you were lucky, you would come by a magical stone and if you were extremely lucky, an artifact would show up.

Soo Han looked at Hyunsuk as if he had used up all his luck in one dungeon in one day.

As Hyunsuk didn't reply, Soo Han took out an object that looked like a huge magnifying glass. It was really an instrument used to detect the magic in an item.

Soo Han didn't inspect the items that were laid out in front of him. Instead, he used the magnifying glass to inspect Hyunsuk's body. It was to check if there was something hidden on his body. This wasn't the case usually, so the body check was just a routine thing to do.

Soo Han quickly moved the magnifying glass up and down Hyunsuk's body.

As nothing showed up he said, "We are done inspecting. You may take your

items and leave.”

Hyunsuk nonchalantly grabbed his bag and put all the items that were on the table into the bag.

Then he just left.

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Level Up_Chapter 3 Part 2

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Hyunsuk walked towards the Dungeon Headquarters when he exited the playground. He wasn't planning to return to the one room apartment that he was living in. Instead, he planned to get a place closer to the Dungeon Headquarters.

He sold 3 magical stones in the Dungeon Headquarters.

A total of \$5,000,000 dollars was deposited into his account.

Because he had the money, Hyunsuk went to the nearest realtor and was able to buy a small loft nearby.

He wasn't planning on living in this place for a long time either. It was just a temporary place for him to crash at.

When he gained more power, and became more experienced, he was planning to get a place of his own. Other people found it hard to achieve that, but for Hyunsuk, it was different and very possible.

He entered the empty loft and went into the living room and emptied the contents of the bag.

The bag contained 30 magical stones and other items that he retrieved from the dungeons that he had not sold yet.

The reason Hyunsuk didn't get caught with all those things, was because he could control the flow of magic.

He used his magical skills and made sure that the magic didn't leak from the objects through his bag.

It was a special talent of his. Even before he died, there was no other player that was capable of pulling this off. Well, out of all the players he met at least.

The reason why Hyunsuk couldn't get caught was because of this one object

he needed in order to make something else.

“I wonder how much I can make with this...”

There were many different kinds of ingredients that was lying on the floor. But the important thing was the power, not how much items he had.

There were 30 magical stones that held 1200 power points. The most he could make out of these 30 items were 90 of what he needed...and that was only if he conserved and allocated the magic correctly.

Hyunsuk grabbed the thing that he needed and slowly poured his power into it.

The most important thing about this project was controlling the flow of magic. If that wasn't possible, the item that he was trying to make would not be made because the amount of magic would be uneven amongst the items.

Of course, Hyunsuk was confident that he would not fail at this. His unique talent binded the item and the power together.

Hyunsuk was concentrated to a point where there were beads of sweat forming on his forehead.

It was a job that he was used to, but because the amount of power he had right now was so little, it wasn't easy.

There were three squishy, green, jelly-like balls on the floor of the loft. It was about as big as a thumb, but the power inside it swirled around the ball.

Of course, it was hard to see the magic spinning around inside it unless you were Hyunsuk himself. That was because the magic stayed inside the ball and didn't escape it.

Hyunsuk grabbed the jelly and carefully inspected it and nodded.

“Very well-made.”

He honestly thought he would fail at making these jellies because he was lacking in power and magic right now. But because they were made better than he thought they would be, he was at ease.

“Hmmm... How am I going to make all of these...”

He scanned the items that were scattered around on the floor and let out a

huge sigh.

He only used one magical stone to make three of these jellies and he already felt like all of his energy was being drained out of him. He had to make 87 more of these jellies from the 29 magical stones that were left.

In order for him to have some of his power be restored, he needed to rest about two hours. He felt just as exhausted right now as he did when he killed the Vine Ghost.

“Oh well... Gotta keep going and make these.”

It was mandatory that he finished making these. These were the things that would set the base of the future.

Even though he was exhausted, he closed his eyes and concentrated on reviving and restoring some of his power.

The green jelly that Hyunsuk was currently making was the game changer of the dungeon games 10 years into the future.

Speaking in terms of the present that Hyunsuk was currently in, this green jelly was what made clearing the Diamond 1 level dungeon possible.

Hyunsuk felt a grin spread across his face. He sucked in all the flow of energy and power that was surrounding him. His level of strength and magic was being recuperated at an amazing speed.

And just like that, four days passed.

Chang Soo stared at the dead Vine Ghost with a blank face. He turned his head to look at Hyunsuk who was approaching the dead creature's body.

“Bro, what the hell is this?”

Myung Suk was suddenly standing next to Chang Soo with a face filled with the same disbelief.

“I wonder the same thing... What the hell is this... It's barely been four days.”

It wasn't just the two people that were looking at Hyunsuk and the dead Vine Ghost, but all of Chang Soo's group was staring in disbelief.

When handling the thunder dragonfly, Hyunsuk killed it so easily. Of course it

was surprising, but they didn't think too much of it. But the story with the Vine Ghost was a bit different.

Just four days ago, Chang Soo had almost died while trying to kill the Vine Ghost, but his strength and everyone else's strength had grown an unbelievable amount in such a short amount of time.

He had just wielded his knife a few times and the Vine Ghost fell dead onto the floor.

That wasn't all.

Hyunsuk was on the verge of passing out after killing the Vine Ghost just until four days ago, but now he appeared as if he could hunt another Vine Ghost right away. That was how lively he was.

How was it possible that a person can change that much in just four days?

They were just staring at the act of Hyunsuk pulling out the magical stone from the dead Vine Ghost's body.

Chang Soo, who sat there with a glazed look in his eyes suddenly came to his senses and slowly approached Hyunsuk.

He wanted to watch how Hyunsuk was extracting the magical stone. He thought that if he kept watching the process, he would eventually learn how to do it himself.

But all he saw was Hyunsuk stand up and brush the dust off of himself.

'Huh? Is he already done? Or did it not possess a magical stone?'

That was actually the normal thing. It was more likely that a creature would not have a

magical stone than to have one. Well, it was normal if you looked at it in the way that it has been in the dungeon for years.

Chang Soo suspiciously eyed Hyunsuk's body up and down.

'I think there might be something inside the bag...'

Hyunsuk was always wearing and carrying around his bag. Inside it were all the items that he extracted from his hunts and numerous magical stones.

Not only was Hyunsuk wearing a bag, but Chang Soo's group members all had a bag on. They also put inside it the objects they got during the hunt.

Inside it were items that they all got as early as when they hunted the thunder dragonfly.

Of course, Hyunsuk carried the most important thing: the liquid that was extracted from the dragonfly's eyes.

'Shit... He changed so much that I can't even keep watch of what he's doing.'

This was just like that time from when they hunted the thunder dragonfly. Chang Soo knew that Hyunsuk extracted something out of it, but he could not see it with his eyes.

Hyunsuk's hands worked too quickly when dissecting the thunder dragonfly that Chang Soo could not distinctly tell as to what Hyunsuk was doing.

There was also the fact that the magical stone was small.

It wasn't easy for one to see when a magical stone was extracted and slipped into their pocket.

It was hard to tell what they were doing even when standing close to them, so you can imagine how much harder it would be when they were watching from afar.

'I wonder how many magical stones he was able to take out today...'

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If you thought about it logically, whenever you cleared a dungeon four times, you should be able to obtain at least one magical stone. At least that was what everyone thought.

Considering that it was a Bronze 1 level dungeon, the magical stones would at least have 500 power points in it.

A stone that held 500 power points was worth about \$10,000.

If it held more than 500, its worth would double up.

In the Bronze levels, the most common magical stone found was one of 500 points.

But when Chang Soo saw the size of the magical stone that Hyunsuk had extracted, he already knew that it was way bigger in size.

‘At least 1000 points. And the one from the Vine Ghost has to be 2000 points.’

A magical stone worth 1000 points was the biggest one you could find in the Silver level dungeons and a magical stone worth 2000 points was usually found in the Gold level dungeons.

That was just speaking by the possibility standards. In reality, even in Silver level dungeons, it was hard to find a stone that had more than 500 power points.

Well, it would be easier to find a magical stone in the Silver level so you were able to make a lot of money.

If you put all the parts of the equation together, it made no sense that there was that much luck in the hunt that took place four days ago.

‘That’s all pure luck and coincidence? Bullshit.’

Once or twice, Chang Soo would be able to think that it really was a coincidence, but it happened so many times that it was hard to pinpoint it as just luck and coincidence.

But Chang Soo had no proof. That was why he had to hold his tongue.

“Let’s get out of here.”

At Hyunsuk’s words, Chang Soo nodded and followed after him. There was no way that Hyunsuk was planning to end his hunt here, so Chang Soo knew that there would be another chance for him to learn how to extract the magical stones.

‘And it’s not like today’s the only day to learn.’

If he thought about the events that played out four days ago, he was anxious. But he held it down inside. He knew if he was patient and just did as he was told, everything would be revealed to him eventually.

Hyunsuk found the core very easily. It was almost as if Hyunsuk already knew the location of the core because within seconds of searching for it, he was standing in front of it.

He placed his hand on top of the core.

CRACK!

The core broke into pieces.

When Chang Soo and his group witnessed this, their eyes became the size of a saucer.

They didn’t think that Hyunsuk would be able to break the core this quickly.

But that wasn’t the end of their surprise.

When the dungeon collapsed and they had returned to the normal world, there was a shield floating in the air before their eyes.

“Another artifact?!”

Hyunsuk scanned through the surprised faces and grabbed the artifact.

CLANG!

The magic and power from the artifact surrounded the air and flowed around them.

Chang Soo was so baffled by this that he was left speechless and his mind was scattered all over the place.

The Dungeon Headquarters was available internationally. All the informations of the players were synced together within the different headquarters. Otherwise, it would not be possible to run such a big organization like the Dungeons.

Also, it wasn't like the complete details of the players were shared. Only the names of the players were shared and they all acted individually according to their own rules.

Korea's Dungeon Headquarters president was a player named Kwang Yul Choo. He was a monster who had obtained the player level of 98.

Kwang Yul had the second highest level after Ryan, who coordinated the America's dungeons.

Of course, just because you were high in level didn't mean you were strong in power. But it was also a given that if your level was high there was a very good chance that you were strong as well.

Also, it was very hard for a player to be able to increase in level when he was already at a high level. But when he was able to jump up a level, the amount of power increase was very big.

Therefore, saying that Kwang Yul Choo was the second strongest man on the planet, wasn't necessarily a wrong way of describing him.

There was also a different level for artifacts, but because Kwang Yul had an extremely strong artifact in his possession, there was no reason for him to feel like he was being looked down upon.

Kwang Yul's cousin, Kyung Hoon Choo, was the vice president that looked over the Gyeonggi-do area of the Korean dungeons.

Kyung Hoon had risen to his spot with the support of his cousin, Kwang Yul. But, Kyung Hoon didn't like the fact that he had to borrow his cousin's support

in order to rise to the spot that he was in.

It wasn't just enough for him to hunt and increase his level. Honestly, Kyung Hoon didn't even have the skills to be able to hunt.

He was a level 57 player.

Level 57 was an extremely high level. But when he was with other vice presidents of different area, he couldn't help but feel small in front of them.

Normally, in Korea, in order to become a vice president, you had to be at least a level 70 player.

That Kyung Hoon was looking with a curious expression.

He was different from other vice presidents. Kyung Hoon took a special interest in players that used their obtained articles and made something with it.

He thought there would be a way for him to advance by doing this.

"Well, wouldn't you say that there is a special method that he's using?"

At Kyung Hoon's question, the secretary that was standing besides him silently answered, "It isn't certain. But it definitely gives us enough reason for us to investigate the situation."

Kyung Hoon nodded his head agreeing with the secretary. He was thinking the exact same thing.

"Hyunsuk Chae... He's roaming around the dungeons and clearing them like crazy... It's barely been two months since he's become a player... Cleared a dungeon over 100 times... Very impressive."

Kyung Hoon continued to nod and his head and then suddenly, looked at his secretary with a confused look on his face.

"His level isn't written on here. Is there some sort of mistake?"

The secretary looked at Kyung Hoon with an uneasy face.

"The thing is... Hyunsuk hasn't gone to measure his level yet..."

"What? He hasn't gone to measure his level yet? Why?"

Kyung Hoon asked the question with a face clearly stating that he was unable

to

understand the situation. He knew that when players felt the slightest increase in their skills and power that they went and claimed their level and had it measured.

But the fact that Hyunsuk had cleared a level over 100 times and hadn't gone once to get his level measured and claim it, when he didn't have a specific reason behind his choice, was very weird and not understandable.

"I'm not sure... I asked the employees that work the entrance and they said that they haven't noticed anything strange about him, nor did they show any reaction regarding Hyunsuk Chae..."

"Is that right? How weird... Anyways, it seems like we need to approach him. Who would be adequate enough to do so?"

"Well since it's a young man that's capable of doing many things..."

At the secretary's words, Kyung Hoon started thinking. He pulled up a mental image of

the women players of the dungeons and thought of someone that he could use.

"What about Ji Hae Ryu?"

"She's a fantastic choice. But I'm not entirely too sure that she would accept the challenge."

"Well, she'll have to accept it because I have something that she wants."

The secretary's face lit up.

"Then I will contact her immediately. But..."

"What's the problem?"

Kyung Hoon looked at the scared looking secretary with a curious face.

"What if it really is luck? Then for Ji Hae Ryu it would be like her losing a lung during

the process of trying to find out for us...”

At this, Kyung Hoon smirked.

“You don’t need to worry about that. There are many things that she would benefit from

accepting this offer. And...”

Kyung Hoon scanned the mental image of the female player’s list again.

“I’m positive that there is something behind this. It’s way too coincidental for there to be nothing hidden behind this.”

At those words, the secretary’s eyes lit up and he nodded vigorously.

When you thought of the situation that way, he knew that there was a legitimate reason for Hyunsuk to be inspected. The discovery of the magical stones seemed like they were planned.

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The secretary looked at Kyung Hoon admiringly.

If it was anyone else that had received a report like this, they wouldn't have been able to handle it and come to a conclusion about the situation.

Other vice presidents would usually take it as luck and move past it. Even the secretary himself would have thought that way if Kyung Hoon hadn't pointed out the oddness of the situation to him.

'Now that i heard about the situation, I feel very stupid that I didn't realize it myself.'

If Kyung Hoon had said that it was pure luck that Hyunsuk was able to achieve all of this, the secretary would have believed him and let it slide. That's how thoroughly Hyunsuk was controlling his number of things found.

The secretary's curiosity for Hyunsuk rose.

'If he really was able to control it all by himself... he's super strong...'

He scanned the list to find Hyunsuk's age.

'21 years old... absolutely incredible...'

When the secretary felt the eyes of Kyung Hoon land on him, he snapped back into reality. He turned his head in the direction of Kyung Hoon and bowed his head slightly.

"Then I will get on with the plan immediately."

Kyung Hoon nodded and waved his hand indicating to the secretary that it was okay for him to leave.

As soon as his secretary left, Kyung Hoon looked down at the list again.

"There's no way that I was the only one to have seen this list... I wonder who

else has seen it.”

As he was mumbling, his lips curved into a smile full of confidence.

*

Chang Soo was sitting in a quiet little coffee shop with his group. Hyunsuk wasn't present.

It had been one month since they last saw Hyunsuk. It meant that it had been a month since they ate the green jelly. Including Chang Soo, the rest of the group had taken the green jelly yesterday.

“I should start finding a way of sorting it out. No? Until when are we going to be hunting thunder dragonflies like slaves to Hyunsuk?”

At Chang Soo's words, everybody started fidgeting. What he said was true but at the same time, it wasn't true to him.

“What's wrong with your reactions? You're not saying that you're okay with this situation, right?”

“The thing is... Well the situation...”

Myung Suk was looking around the table and opened his mouth. Chang Soo tried to calm down and looked back at Myung Suk.

“Just think about how we were when we weren't with him.”

Chang Soo shut his mouth. Even if Myung Suk didn't say those words, Chang Soo already knew.

If they thought about how they were back then, they were like trash.

Of course even now, it was hard to say that they were good guys, but they were better than they were back then.

Even if they acted like trash, they weren't able to obtain any magical stones from the dungeons. But because of Hyunsuk, they had come this far within one month.

“And just compare us from then and now. Although the hunting is hard and he makes us work, we make at least \$5,000 a day.”

But if they thought about the amount that Hyunsuk took, it really was unfair.

But if they also compared them to the way that they were living, dealing with that wasn't too bad. Back then, the most magical stones that they'd find were 5.

Also, the ones that they were able to obtain, only held about 500 power points at max.

The 500 power point magical stone was one that wasn't rare at all. Amongst the players, it was a given that a player would be able to obtain one at least once in their lives. The selling price wasn't that high either.

If a magical stone had over 1000 power points, it was worth at least \$1,000,000. But one with 500 power points was worth only \$10,000.

Of course there were other items, but come on, how much would that all be worth when added up?

At the end, each person wouldn't even be able to take home \$10,000 each day.

But think about it now. Of course the job was hard and arduous, they took home at least \$5,000 everyday. It meant that in one month, you were able to make over a \$100,000 even if there were some resting days.

How many players would be able to say that? If you thought about it that way, Hyunsuk was allowing them to live their dream life.

Chang Soo glared at his group for giving him a reaction of that sort.

"So are you all saying that you guys want to continue living as slaves like this?"

In all honesty, they weren't living their lives like slaves. They were working hard and honestly earning their living, but Myung Suk could not bring himself to say that.

There was nothing to be gained by fighting with Chang Soo.

The atmosphere became uncomfortable very quickly. Chang Soo scanned his eyes around his group.

Chang Soo had to approach them carefully. If he ran towards them with a spear, they would quickly turn his back on him. He had to watch what he said.

"I'm not saying this lifestyle is bad. Of course it's good that we're working hard

to make an honest living.”

Almost as if Chang Soo’s agreement brought them comfort, everyone turned their eyes on him and listened.

When Chang Soo saw that his plan was working, he fought to keep the anger rise from his chest. He already knew that their hearts had turned on him a long time ago. But there were many ways to turn them back onto his side.

“All I want is a little equality.”

They stared back at Chang Soo with their eyes wide open almost as if they were asking him what he was talking about.

Chang Soo spoke with an unhappy expression, “Are you guys all really thinking that this situation is fair? We’re the ones playing the bait in Hyunsuk’s games. Think about exactly what he’s doing carefully!”

At those words, everyone started to slowly nod their heads.

Truthfully, playing the bait wasn’t easy. The thunderbolts that the thunder dragonfly threw out were extremely dangerous and could kill them.

On the other hand, the only thing that Hyunsuk had to do was stay hidden and then kill the thunder dragonfly while it was being distracted by the others.

Of course it required a lot of strength and skills in order to successfully slay the dragonfly, but it was the safest and easiest job of it all. Even the group members couldn’t deny that.

But the thing was, Hyunsuk took the most out of all the obtained things. Also, the group members didn’t know how much money Hyunsuk made because they weren’t able to confirm how many magical stones Hyunsuk extracted from the creatures.

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